

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) An animal feed composition comprising more than 240 microgram of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA, 7-methoxy-IAA and a compound that can be converted into free IAA in one or more steps.

2. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 1 comprising up to 40 g of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.

3. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 1 comprising between 100 and 1000 mg of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.

4. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 1 additionally comprising an enzyme capable of converting the derivative into free IAA.

5. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 4 comprising an aromatic ring wherein the aromatic ring is substituted on one or more of the 4, 5, 6 and 7 position with methyl, amino, nitro, fluoride, chloride, bromide or iodide.

6. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 1, wherein the feed composition is in the form of at least one of pellets, meal, grains, extruded or expanded grains, tablets, powder and bolus forms.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for at least one of increasing the growth rate and improving at least one of the feed efficiency, the feed conversion rate and the immunity of a non-human animal, the method comprising administering to said animal an effective amount of a composition according to claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:
using free IAA or a derivative thereof, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA, 7-methoxy-IAA and a compound that can be converted into free IAA for the preparation of a therapeutical composition for stimulating the immune system in non-human animals in need of such a treatment.

9. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:

using of a composition according to claim 1 for the preparation of a therapeutical composition for at least one of stimulating growth and stimulating the immune system in animals in need of such a treatment.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8, wherein the free IAA or a derivative thereof is capable of increasing the serum level of insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1).

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim-10, wherein the animal has a lowered level of IGF-1.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8, wherein the animals have at least one of a growth deficit and a weakened immune system.

13. (Withdrawn) Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising:

admixing a composition according to claim 1 with at least one feed substance or ingredient in order to obtain an animal feed composition according to claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising:

supplementing an animal feed with free IAA or a derivative thereof in order to obtain an animal feed composition according to claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) Method for raising non-human animals comprising:
mixing an effective dose of free IAA or a derivative thereof with a feed material in order to obtain a feed composition according to claim 1, suitable for a particular animal species; and feeding said species with the feed material.

16. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 2 comprising between 100 and 1000 mg of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.

17. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 2 additionally comprising an enzyme capable of converting the derivative into free IAA.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein the free IAA or a derivative thereof is capable of increasing the serum level of insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1).